



Our Lady & The English Martyrs

Litherland

5th Sunday of Ordinary Time
Sunday 4th February 2024



Parish Priest: Very Rev Canon Mark B Madden KCHS FRSA

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www.ourladyandenglishmartyrs.co.uk

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How do I best learn more deeply about Jesus?

WHEN YOU PRAY: A Clear path to a deeper relationship with God.

Apologies but this year's Lenten course on prayer will be slightly delayed with a possible start date at the end of February. Fr Mark will give further details as soon as he knows when the resources are expected to arrive.

A couple of places are still available so give your name to the parish office.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES

You are welcome to join Bishop Tom Neylon for the annual Diocesan celebration for the Feast of our Lady of Lourdes and World Day of Prayer for the Sick will take place on Saturday 10th February, 12pm at Christ the King, Queens Drive, Childwall.



REST IN PEACE



We sadly heard of the death last week of Mgr George Mooney, one of our most loved priests in the Archdiocese. He was 96 years of age and was in his 70th year of priesthood. He held many appointments throughout his priestly ministry including: Chancellor, Episcopal Vicar, Vicar General and was Parish Priest of S.S. Peter & Paul, Crosby, before his retirement in 1997. May he rest in peace.

DEANERY HOLY HOUR

During February and March our Deanery will receive an Episcopal Visitation when Bishop Tom Neylon will visit each parish and celebrate Sunday Mass. In preparation for this, the Deanery priests have arranged two Holy Hours to which you are encouraged to attend. The one for our family of parishes will take place on **Thursday 29 February, 7pm - 8pm at Our Lady of Walsingham.**

FAMILIES OF PARISHES - THINK TANK

The next step on the road for the Families of Parishes are two Think Tank Events. The one nearest to Litherland will take place on 20 February at Holy Rosary Parish Hall, Altway, Aintree.

Please email: holrosary@rcaol.org.uk to confirm your attendance.

CATHOLIC PIC

The February edition is now available in the church shop. The main feature this month is the launch of the Families of Parishes across the Archdiocese and much more.

Please take a copy, free of charge, and support this important Diocesan resource.

SUNDAY THOUGHTS

Job's life has become a drudgery: restless nights followed by forgettable days. Every evening he ends his day without hope. He has no confidence that his life will change. A couple of weeks ago we heard Jesus call Andrew and Simon. They abandon their nets of drudgery and follow him to a brand-new life. Today we see Jesus enter Simon's mother-in-law's house, where she lay in bed ill. His healing touch leads to her a new life, a life of ministry to her fellow disciples. Often we feel as Job did, stuck in a rut and despairing of our misfortune. May we instead find hope in Christ, as his first disciples did, allowing him to guide us to a life of service, a life with purpose, a life for the kingdom.



Interestingly, the Greek word **egeiro**, which Mark uses to describe how Jesus raised Simon's mother-in-law out of bed, is used in a slightly different form by the angel who greets the women at the tomb when they come to anoint Jesus' body. Remember that Mark wrote his Gospel long after Jesus' death and resurrection. It would appear that Mark intentionally used the same word the angel did to describe what Jesus did here. Jesus is truly raising her to a new life, a life of ministry to and for others.

Often we just have to learn things by ourselves. Sometimes it's because we're unsure if we can trust the person who's teaching us. Sometimes it's because what we're told seems unbelievable. But often it's simply because we learn better when we figure it out on our own. In today's Gospel, Mark says that Jesus did not permit the demons he drove out to speak *"because they knew who he was"*. Later, we will hear again and again that despite following him for a long period of time, the disciples still misunderstood who Jesus was. They only learn little by little over time. Perhaps Jesus realised he had to wait patiently for his disciples to gradually learn who he was. What the demons could have revealed would not have enabled true learning.

NUGENT CARE DONATIONS Our Charity Shop on Allerton Road in Liverpool is currently very low on stock and we are in urgent need of donations. If anyone at your Church may be able to support by donating items, we would be extremely grateful! We gratefully welcome the following items: clothing, shoes,

accessories, handbags, books, jigsaws, Bric-a-brac. Unfortunately we are unable to accept toys, soft toys, furniture or electrical items. Donations can be dropped off at: Our charity shop, open Wednesdays and Saturdays 10am-5pm, 73 Allerton Road, L17. Our head office, open Monday to Friday 9am-5pm, 99 Edge Lane, L7. We may be able to collect your items – please call the shop to discuss on 737 2951 (the shop is only open on Wednesdays and Saturdays)



Masses & Services for the coming week

| DATE | MASS INTENTIONS & SERVICES |
|---|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday 4th February <i>5th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i></p> | <p style="text-align: center;">10.30am People of the Parish</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11:45am Baptism - Xavier Passey</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Monday 5th February <i>St Agatha</i></p> | <p style="text-align: center;">10.00am Michael O'Neill</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday 6th February <i>St Paul Miki & Companions</i></p> | <p style="text-align: center;">10.00am John Dunn</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday 7th February</p> | |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Thursday 8th February <i>St Josephine Bakhita</i></p> | <p style="text-align: center;">10.00am Rob Chew</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11.45am Funeral Service - Rita Walters</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Friday 9th February</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">10.00am Robin Bond</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Saturday 10th February</p> | |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday 11th February <i>6th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> <i>World Day of Prayer for the Sick</i> <i>Day for the Unemployed</i></p> | <p style="text-align: center;">10.30am People of the Parish</p> <p style="text-align: center;">11:45am Baptism - Thomas Long</p> |



SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp for the coming week is for:

Teresa & John Sinnott



St Teresa of Calcutta Deanery.

In establishing our two Families of Parishes we are proposing to set up a Caritas Group. (Caritas is the internationally used name for the churches charitable outreach).

To explore how we do this a meeting (for an hour) has been arranged for Thursday 22nd Feb at Holy Rosary at 7:00pm.

So, if you have a passion for social justice, for local issues, for food banks, for cost of living issues, for SVP, CAFOD, environmental issues, justice and peace, live simply, social outreach, then come along and help to shape what we could do in our Deanery and in our Families of Parishes.



HOMES FOR UKRAINE

Caritas Social Action Network are working in partnership with St John of God Hospitaller Services to coordinate a Homes for Ukraine programme, which provides temporary housing and support for Ukrainian displaced individuals as they adjust to life in the UK. The organisation has successfully matched 132 Ukrainian guests with generous hosts across the country. Nearly two years since the war in Ukraine started, the number of those wishing to evacuate and find refuge in the UK remains high.

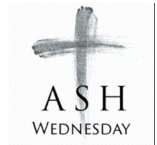
Prayers cards are available at the back of church for you to prayer for Ukraine. If you would like more information on the Homes for Ukraine programme please visit www.sjog-homesforukraine.uk

A LOOK AT MARK'S GOSPEL: Irenaeus

Centre, Thursday 8 – 29 February 10:30am-12:00pm. Over several weeks in February the Irenaeus Centre will be taking a look at Mark's Gospel. Zoom links and further information available by emailing jenny@irenaeus.co.uk or calling 949 1199.

AH WEDNESADY 2024

The start of Lent begins on Wednesday 14 February when ashes are distributed. Mass that day will be at 12noon. An evening Mass at 7pm will be celebrated at St Robert Bellarmine. Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting and abstinence.



MAY SHE REST IN PEACE

Rita Walters

Funeral Service - Tuesday 8 February 11.45am



HELP NEEDED

A message from the Irenaeus Project in Waterloo: *"Help!!! Our food cupboard is bare! We have a huge demand because people are struggling so much at the moment and we can't always keep up with the demand. We are looking for tinned goods, long life milk, tinned potatoes, custard, rice pudding, tinned meat, tinned fish and anything else you can help with. Drop any donations off at the Irenaeus Centre, 32 Great Georges Road, Waterloo, Liverpool. Thank you"*.

MOBILE PHONES

Following discussion at the Bishops' Conference, we have been advised that, due to the sacred nature of the confessional, mobile phones must not be brought into the confessional or they should be switched off before entering. They should not just be put to silent mode. This is because, even if in silent mode, phones can still listen-in to conversations and artificial intelligence algorithms identify items of interest to potential advertisers. This technology does not affect every network but must be presumed to be operative because it cannot be proven otherwise.

This is a good reminder that mobile phones must not be used in church and should be switched to silent mode or switched off completely.



LGBT+ LIVERPOOL ARCHDIOCESE

The next Mass and gathering will be on Sunday 3 March. Mass at 2pm at All Saints in Anfield.

ARCHDIOCESAN DIRECTORY

The 2024 Liverpool Archdiocesan Directory is now on sale in the Parish Shop at just £4.

This excellent annual publication gives a wealth of information including times of Masses for each parish within the Archdiocese.

LENT ZOOM WEEKEND

The Augustinian Sisters at Boarbank Hall in Cumbria have arranged a weekend Lenten zoom retreat.

8-10 March with evening sessions only. Theme: Fasting and Feasting. Time out for working Catholics. For more information please contact Sr. Margaret: margaret@boarbankhall.org.uk



SANCTUARY LAMP

We are running low on dedications for the Sanctuary Lamp. This is a lovely way to remember loved ones or to ask for any special intention. Write the dedication on a piece of paper and place in an envelope with your £5 donation and pass to Parish Office. Dedications are allocated for a full week.



LIVERPOOL ARCHDIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING AUDIT

Following a week-long audit on Safeguarding measures and policies, the Archdiocese of Liverpool has received 'Results Being Achieved' mark which is excellent news. The audit was conducted by the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) which ensures that Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults is correctly carried out within the Catholic Church in England & Wales.

The audit praised the Archdiocese on a number of factors including a clear zero-tolerance approach to abuse that is modelled and championed by the Archdiocesan leadership; engagement and care given to abuse survivors; the effective management of allegations and concerns; and the delivery of training and support for clergy.

UNWANTED GIFTS

We are always grateful for any items to help with our fundraising efforts through the year. If you have any unwanted gifts that may help with raffles etc please pass in to the Parish Office



CONFIRMATION 2024

Registration is now open for those in Yr8 of High School and who wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this year and will close Friday 15 March. Any young person in Yr8 can register for

Confirmation preparation at

www.liverpoolcalled.co.uk While the registration period is open Animate will visit schools in the diocese to promote the Sacrament. At the same time schools will teach about the Sacrament in RE classes. Further preparation is then carried out locally and the Sacrament will be celebrated in our deanery later this year. After 15 March no more applications can be considered. See the back of the Newsletter for further details.



WALK OF WITNESS

A Walk of Witness for Peace, Repentance and Reconciliation on Ash Wednesday, 14 February. Assemble from 1.15pm on the steps of St Luke's 'bombed out church' at the top of Bold Street. The walk starts at 1.30pm with Stations of the Cross.

The event is organised by Merseyside Pax Christi and all are welcome.

LITHERLAND HISTORY SOCIETY The next meeting is in the Parish Hall at 10am on Tuesday 6th February. Elaine Allen will present 'What a coincidence!'. Entrance is £2 which includes tea and biscuits. All are welcome.

FEAST OF THE WEEK

St Josephine Bakhita (1869-1947)

Josephine Bakhita was born near Jebel Agilere in South Darfur (Sudan). Kidnapped when still very young, she experienced the cruelty of slavery as she was sold several times in slave markets of Africa. Finally she was rescued by an Italian family and brought to Italy where she not only became a Christian but also felt the call to consecrate her life to God as a sister. She joined the Canossian Daughters of Charity and lived the rest of her life at Schio, a small village near Vicenza. She died on 8 February, 1947 and her feast is celebrated on Thursday.



Medjugorje

Joe Walsh Tours is arranging a pilgrimage to the shrine of Medjugorje from 4 April, leaving from Manchester Airport. 7 nights, £799. For more info visit: info@joewalshstours.co.uk

Medjugorje is a place of peace and spiritual renewal in Bosnia and Herzegovina and is visited by thousands of pilgrims each year.

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Usually celebrated from 4.00pm - 4.30pm on Saturday.

Fr Mark is often available in the 20 minutes before each Mass. Please pop into the sacristy to ask.



We're excited to invite you to take part in CAFOD's Big Lent Walk, our challenge to walk 200km over 40 days to help people overcome poverty.

That's right – that's 5km a day, and you're in good time to get in plenty of training. You can walk, run, skip, or stroll your 200km, when and where you choose, alone or with friends. You'll be among thousands of people up and down Great Britain conquering your 200km targets in time for Easter.

This Lent CAFOD is linking up with SCIAF to bring the Big Lent Walk to the whole of Great Britain. From John O'Groats to Land's End, Cardiff to Coventry, people will be tying up their purple laces to give poverty it's marching orders.

The money you raise will help people as they overcome poverty. Remember: every step you take is a step closer to a fairer world. Let's tell poverty to jog on! Sign up at cafod.org.uk

THE BELLE VALE PASSION

Holy Saturday 12noon Belle Vale Shopping Centre (L25 2RF): What are you doing for Lent? This project promises to be a great way to prepare for Easter. It will offer the opportunity to nurture new friendships, contribute towards a community project, and above all, bring the Easter story to the local community.

There are many roles, tasks, and voluntary jobs. We would like to get 100 people signed up by Ash Wednesday (14th Feb) and there is a role for everyone. Every parishioner is invited to join this unique journey throughout Lent. Those who live some distance away may feel this is something they could commit to this year. Please visit the website www.bellevalepassion.co.uk to watch a short film and find out how you can get involved.



LIVERPOOL ARCHDIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2024

Led by Archbishop Malcolm. 19th — 26th July. 7 nights. Direct return flights from Liverpool to Lourdes. Full board and a full religious programme. Price is between £750—£999 depending on your chosen hotel. To book please contact Joe Walsh Tours 0808 1890 468 or email: info@joewalshstours.co.uk.

If you would like to go as a sick or assisted pilgrim please email the Pilgrimage Office:
Liverpool-Lourdes.co.uk

The pilgrimage urgently needs: doctors, nurses, healthcare professionals, adult helpers (over 18), musicians and singers. For more information: lourdespilgrimage@rcaolp.co.uk



THANK YOU

To the parishioners of Our Lady & The English Martyrs, I want to say a very big thank you for the prayers you've said for me on my recent ordination as a priest and for your continued love and support. This means a lot to me and I will always remember you at every Mass. I am greatly looking forward to my next visit in April. Please continue to pray for me.
Fr Pradeep Lakra OFMCap

IRENAEUS CENTRE An afternoon of reflection 'An insight into Trafficking' on 7 February. This will begin with a light lunch, followed by a talk from Petra Smrckova of the Medaille Trust, where she will share her some of her experiences working with Trafficked people. All are welcome.

POPE FRANCIS PRAYER INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY

For the terminally ill

We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment. .

Lord in your mercy...



JUBILEE 2025

Fr Mark continues the reflection which on Jubilee 2025, beginning on Christmas Eve 2024 and which Pope Francis has asked all Catholics to prepare for with a Year of Prayer and Reflection in 2024. Pope Francis has issued a letter to reflect on the Jubilee and we will reproduce it over the coming weeks:

To My Dear people

The Jubilee has always been an event of great spiritual and social significance in the life of the Church. Ever since 1300, when Boniface VIII instituted the first Holy Year – initially celebrated every hundred years, then, following its biblical precedent, every fifty years, and finally every twenty-five years – God’s holy and faithful people has experienced this celebration as a special gift of grace, characterized by the forgiveness of sins and in particular by the indulgence, which is a full expression of the mercy of God. The faithful, frequently at the conclusion of a lengthy pilgrimage, draw from the spiritual treasury of the Church by passing through the Holy Door and venerating the relics of the Apostles Peter and Paul preserved in Roman basilicas. Down the centuries, millions upon millions of pilgrims have journeyed to these sacred places, bearing living witness to the faith professed in every age.

The Great Jubilee of the year 2000 ushered the Church into the third millennium of her history. Saint John Paul II had long awaited and greatly looked forward to that event, in the hope that all Christians, putting behind their historical divisions, could celebrate together the two thousandth anniversary of the birth of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of humanity. Now, as the first twenty-five years of the new century draw to a close, we are called to enter into a season of preparation that can enable the Christian people to experience the Holy Year in all its pastoral richness.

To be continued.

MARRIAGE WEEK 2024

The annual week of prayer for those who are married takes place from 7-14 February. Marriage is God's gift to his people. It is an expression of the depth of human loving, of its enduring reality and of its likeness to the love of God.

A Christian marriage is rooted in faith. Firstly, that means faith in God, as the giver of life and the one who promises eternal life to those who believe in him. Faith also means God's faith in his sons and daughters. For married people, love of neighbour begins with love of each other and of all the children that may be granted to them as parents.

National Marriage Week is an opportunity to ponder on this display of God's love for the world he created. It is a chance for married couples to reflect, perhaps with their families, on how they might develop the good things that exist between and within them. It is a time to demonstrate the value of marriage, based on sincerely lived vows, to men and women and to society as a whole. This is a week of prayer for the whole Church, in gratitude to God who has given us life and taught us to love so that we can be as he made us - a visible icon of himself.



WE WELCOME WITH GREAT JOY

Xavier Passey

Baptised Sunday 4 February 2024



THE LIVERPOOL PILGRIM WAY

Phil McCarthy, who designed the Liverpool Pilgrim Way, has updated this pilgrimage route to include Bishop Eton and the Catholic Church of the Holy Family in Cronton. Fr Mark walked this route a couple of weeks ago and thoroughly recommends it to anyone who enjoys walking.

For the updated route, as well as a few lovely photos taken en-route go to: www.pilgrimways.org.uk and search for 'Liverpool' in the alphabetic list. Many more walks can be found on the site.

LOUDFENCE

The first annual Ecumenical LoudFENCE Event will be taking place in Liverpool on Saturday 9th March 2024. This will start with a Non-Denominational Blessing and Ribbon Tying Ceremony at the Anglican Cathedral, followed by a walk along Hope Street to the Metropolitan Cathedral where a Prayer Service and Ribbon Tying Ceremony will also be held. This event aims to give people who have suffered harm and pain from abuse a voice and an opportunity to express their pain in a positive environment where they will be believed and supported. This event is free and open to ALL who have suffered any type of harm or abuse for example Domestic, Faith Based, Sexual, Emotional, Financial, or Familial.



Archdiocese of
Liverpool



Diocese of
Liverpool

You are invited to the first annual Ecumenical LoudFENCE Event in
Liverpool on **Saturday 9th March 2024**
starting with a
Ribbon Tying Ceremony at 12.30pm
and a
Non-Denominational Blessing at 1.30pm
at the
Anglican Cathedral then a walk along Hope Street to the
Metropolitan Cathedral where a Prayer Service and Ribbon Tying Ceremony
will also be held.



This event is free and open to **ALL** who have suffered
ANY TYPE OF HARM OR ABUSE
for example
Domestic, Faith Based, Sexual, Emotional, Financial, Familial, if this is
YOU or SOMEONE YOU KNOW
please come along and tie a ribbon to show support of all victims and
survivors of abuse.
This event aims to give people who have suffered harm and pain from
abuse a voice and an opportunity to express their pain in a positive
environment where they will be believed and supported.